GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3781
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
RESEARCH TO CURB FRUITS DISEASES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fruits get destroyed because of their infliction with diseases;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any research to curb these diseases;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir. Fruits get destroyed because of their infliction with diseases if care is not taken.

(b) Yes, Sir. Research has been conducted to curb diseases by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR Institutes/National Research Centres, All India Coordinated Research Projects on different fruit crops and Network programmes.

(c) & (d): Outcome of the research has been that fungal, bacterial, microbial and mould associated with diseases causing damages to different fruits have been identified. Details of pre-disposing factors including pre-harvest conditions, which are aggravating the diseases have also been worked out. Diseases causing damage to fruits are anthracnose, black rot, cigar-end rot in banana, Diplodia stem-end rot, Aspergillus black rot, blue mould, bacterial rots, Rhizopus rot/black mould, Phytophthora rot, etc. Common factors which are pre-disposing for the diseases are infection in orchard, poor handling at the time of harvest and transport, storage in inappropriate conditions and weather conditions. To reduce the damage due to diseases in fruits, Guidelines, based on the research, have been prepared. The recommendations include pre-harvest treatment, proper handling, pre-cooling, grading, pre-treatment of fruits with non-toxic chemicals, sulphuring in case of litchi, grading ,appropriate packaging and maintenance of cool chain temperature appropriate to fruits i.e. tropical fruit not less than 12Â°C and temperate fruit 0-6Â°C.